

NURTURING THE
SELF-DIRECTED
MINDS. 





The Act of Self-Construction

“Education is not acquired by listening to words,
but in virtue of experiences in which the child acts
on his environment”

- Dr. Maria Montessori



THE FOUNDER

Mrs. Madhu Trehan is the Founding Member of Firststep. She is a passionate and seasoned educationist with over 30 years of experience. In addition, she has been instrumental in creating a mark in the field of early child education and development in the region.



FOUNDER'S DESK

“We believe that every child has a natural process of development - a process which does not require an adult's instructions but his/her observation. By learning to be observers before mentors, doing so, we can create an environment to nurture a child's inherent desire to learn and self-construct.”

Our vision is '**to make formative education contemporarily relevant and accountable in every aspect of a child's life**'. At Firststep, we define relevant education as a process where a child is given a certain degree of freedom to self-construct, not only in the sphere of formal education, but also when it comes to building life-long character.

The school was conceptualised in 1983, an era when the concept of early child education/preschools did not even exist. By providing Montessori education, Firststep positioned itself as a sought after institution with a progressive outlook towards education.

At Firststep, all modules are designed on a three stage lesson – accumulation of knowledge/ observations, followed by thinking and application, and concluded by synthesis and evaluation.

OTHER FOUNDING MEMBER

Mrs. Lalita Trehan is a renowned Montessorian and teacher trainer. She is the Founder Director of Sugar Creek Montessori, a chain of schools in America. She has also served as a trustee on the board of the Texas Centre for Educational Research (T.C.E.R) and most recently has been appointed to serve on the Fort Bend Independent School District's Academic Advisory Council (AAC).

MANAGEMENT

Firststep is managed by a team of seasoned educationists and professionals with a single minded motive of empowering young minds by providing contemporarily relevant education.

The team comprises of alumni from prominent institutes such as Mayo College (Ajmer), Modern Montessori International (London), Nanyang Business School (Singapore), National Law School (Bangalore).

Our academic team consists of trained & experienced professionals who are armed with top notch qualifications from reputed institute. All our Directresses are trained in International Curriculum .



Our team's progressive outlook and diverse skill-sets enable us to continuously innovate and professionally approach the field of education.

WHY MONTESSORI

Traditional Method	Montessori Method
Subjects centric environment	Child-centric learning environment
Rigid curriculum	Flexible yet structured curriculum
Non scientific	Scientific method of teaching
Random placement- not necessary to return to a specific place	Specific places for materials -Sense of order
Teacher decides what the child has to learn - a dominant and active role	Teacher's role is supportive whereas child actively participates in decision making and learning
Use of reward and punishment for motivation	Self-education through self-correcting material
All children are assumed to be alike in learning	Recognition of sensitive periods in each child - Play material for non-specific skills Multi-sensory material to develop specific skills
Little emphasis on instruction on classroom maintenance	Organized program for learning self-care and care of environment



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

A dynamic curriculum to put a child's mind at play

Ethos of our ELC section

- § Integrated curriculum based on research and our decades of experience in child development
- § Child initiated education where age appropriate concepts are introduced via scientifically designed Montessori aids and activity based methods
- § Certified and trained co-ordinators/educators in Montessori and Activity Based Learning
- § Beginning of child's education without rote learning and its inherent monotony
- § Early character building- self-construction and consequent development of self-esteem of every child
- § Provision of child-safe environment enriched with spread of learning landscapes



THE MONTESSORI METHOD

Sensorial

Infants learn how to use their hands only after learning how to use their mouths.

They find amusement in learning sounds-pitches, tones etc. by banging objects together. They put everything into their mouth to feel its taste before an older person takes it out cautiously. If nature intended to teach using the five senses, the Montessori approach acknowledges its importance by adding a respectful dose of sensory stimuli to it.



Practical Life Experiences (PLE)

The free life of an independent child in a carefully structured environment.

We do not create miniature adults but strongly believe in the saying -“Teach the boy how to fish rather than give him fish to eat”. From how to wear clothes and shoes, open and close bottles and boxes, locks and keys, wipe the water they spilt and other day to day chores, we build an attitude for life and not just prepare them for admission into high schools.

Language

Language is imparted through social interaction on myriad topics in keeping with a theme of the month.

The English alphabet is introduced using phonic sound. This learning process is very similar to the way an infant learns the language used around him naturally and therefore the subjugation to a foreign language does not exist. Recognition and writing are aided by tracing the cut outs of letters in sand paper. This creates a mental impression of the letters and escalates the process of learning the alphabet. Material helps the children of as young as 3 years and 3 months make three letter phonetic words.



V



O



m



Arithmetic

The material for this module have been designed by Dr. Maria Montessori along with inputs from John Piaget and Edward Seguin.

The education moves from working with concrete material to writing. Recognition and writing are aided by tracing the cut outs of letters in sand paper. The numbers are learnt out in the open on the hop-scotch, going up and down stairs. Skip counting, what comes before and after – these concepts are reinforced with games in the open. Four digit manipulations are also taught using golden bead material.

Geometry

Children learn their geometric shapes and solids, and even play games with the materials in the laboratory.

We introduce the concept of triangles of various shapes that can be put together to form other geometric shapes like rhombus, square, rectangle, parallelogram, hexagon etc. These are in the form of constructive triangles and it is just like solving a puzzle. Similarly, binomial and trinomial cubes too are taught through puzzles (the formal education of these concepts comes much later than preliminary years).





Culture

Making Geography and Botany/Zoology fun for a child.

Geography is not a subject limited to higher classes in the Montessori approach. Models, puzzles, maps, flags and other material make the learning of this subject a fun process. Montessori has models to work with that make awareness of land and water forms a child's play.

Under **Botany** we plant seeds and watch them grow. The gardener teaches us about sun, shade and how to mow the lawn correctly. We smell the flowers in the garden and taste seasonal fruits for sensorial education. We even have the herb wheel and we know just how curry and mint leaves differ.

A young child with light brown hair, wearing a blue zip-up jacket, is focused on pouring water from a white bowl into another white bowl. The child is sitting at a table with a colorful, multi-colored tray (green, orange, red) in front of them. The background is slightly blurred, showing a blue chair and a yellow wall. The lighting is warm and natural, highlighting the child's concentration.

Building a Life Long Character

- Discovery of self worth
- Being judicious and developing sense of order
- Care for self, peers and environment

OUR ECE ENVIRONMENT

A classroom full of tools to trigger a child's curiosity

Montessori I

Our Montessori I is an apt environment for toddlers between age 1.5-2.5 years. Here a child is involved in Montessori based modules primarily related to a) Practical Life Experiences (PLE), b) Touch/Sensory activities, c) Language stimulation activities and d) Gross/Fine motor development activities. Here, in a self-controllable environment, a child begins to build on his/her independence and sense of order early in life.

Montessori II

Montessori II is an environment for a child between age 2.5-3.5 years. Besides building on sensorial intelligence and working on motor skills, a child also gets exposed to our modules - Practical Life Experience (PLE), Language (phonics and print writing), Arithmetic and Culture via Montessori, and conventional method. Introduction to the concept of public speaking via Show and Tells, and Character Play is also an important part of this environment so as to develop confidence and oratory skills.





Montessori III

Montessori III, suitable for a child between age 3.5-4.5 years, teaches a child to start reading and constructing three letter phonetic words with Montessori material. Arithmetic is taught, besides via the conventional mode, by using material designed by Edward Sequin, a French scientist. A child is also introduced to our Culture module where knowledge about oceans and continents among other things is imparted. Age appropriate education on Sensorial and PLE carries on as the child moves towards complete independence. Exposure to dramas, musicals and oratory exercises is included for the holistic development of a child.

Montessori IV

Montessori IV is for a child between age 4.5-5.5 years, which has a heavier dose of conventional education to manage the pressure of conventional elementary school curriculum. Montessori education remains as a facilitator to understand English, Culture and Arithmetic concepts better. PLE module remains an essential part of the curriculum as it helps a child to unwind from the conventional schedule.



OUR ELEMENTARY ENVIRONMENT

Our 360 degree curriculum develops a child's right and left brain

Ethos of our Elementary Environment

- § Child centric education environment with attractive students, teacher ratio
- § CBSE based curriculum delivered via conventional as well activity based learning method (inspired from Montessori and Multi-Intelligence theory)
- § Assessment of a child's various intelligence based on Multi-Intelligence theory
- § Holistic development via scholastic & co-scholastic activities

Our Elementary Environment curriculum follows the CBSE pattern for the scholastic development of a child. Besides the conventional curriculum, we lay immense importance on modules like declamation, drama, musicals, group discussions/activities to nurture a child's critical thinking, creative, verbal, spatial abilities. Such activity-based-learning makes sure that a child experiences the complete cycle of learning – from accumulation of knowledge to related thinking and application to synthesis and evaluation. Our exhaustive 360 degree curriculum and assessment makes sure that a child not only works on logical or verbal skills, but also gets nurtured and assessed on intrapersonal and interpersonal skills for an overall development of his/her character.



AFTER-SCHOOL MODULES

Extending our support to give you more

We understand the importance of all round development of a child in today's world, where being logically intelligent is not the only aim. A child must get exposed to other activities in life which hone his/her physical, social and emotional intelligence as well. To cater to such needs, we provide extended school hours for our students where they utilize their time in a structured and constructive manner. A plethora of activities are structured for these hours in order to engage a child's body and mind.

Our primary modules for these hours are:

- 🕒 **Extended Montessori Hours**
- 🕒 **Evening Club Activities– gymnastics, sports, classical dance and music under the purview of well qualified and experienced professionals**
- 🕒 **Homework Cafe**

A dynamic program to empower your child with a life-long character that triggers curiosity and inspires creativity.







Firststep- Montessori School

 School Plot-2, Sector 7, Panchkula, Haryana

 +91+172.462.4791, +91+911.595.2232

 Admissions - info@thefirststepschool.com

Corporate/Franchise - franchise@thefirststepschool.com

To know more about us, visit us at-

 <https://www.Firststepschool.com/>

 <https://www.Facebook.com/TheFirststepSchool>

 <https://www.Instagram.com/montessoriatfirststep/>

 <https://www.Linkedin.com/company/firststep-montessori-school/>

A bright and confident future for your child begins here.